(b) Telephone Directories are likely to be distributed to the subscribers in 6 to 9 months in MTNL Delhi. In MTNL Mumbai, the Directories are likely to be distributed in July 2004. The delay occurred on account of collecting some important information from other agencies/organizations like paper manufacturers, yellow pages publishers and finalization of Tenders etc. for proper evaluation of the cost and revenue realization.

(c) Yes, Sir. The case has been examined and it has not been found feasible to bring out a Comprehensive Telephone Directory for MTNL, BSNL and other Telephone Service Providers as it will add more volumes to the already voluminous Telephone Directory making it difficult to carry and inconvenient to use and will result in further delays & high costs. Therefore, it is not proposed to make it mandatory to bring out Combined Directory.

(d) No, Sir. The CD RoM is available at all Customer Service Centres/ Sanchar Haats of MTNL at cost. Printed Telephone Directory is supplied free of cost.

Unified Telecom Licence

1711. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal for a Unified Telecom Licence and for hike in FDI in basic and cellular services from 49 per cent to 74 per cent;

(b) the manner in which this Unified Licence would help in increasing tele-density and growth of the sector through competition; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, *inter-alia*, based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), an Addendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) has been issued in November, 2003 to provide for the following categories of licences for Telecommunication Services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all Telecommunication/Telegraph

Services covering various geographical areas using any technology;

(ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

The Government has not approved hike in FDI in Basic and Cellular Services from 49 to 74%.

(b) and (c) Given the central aim of NTP-99 to ensure rapid expansion of tele-density, Government in the public interest in general and consumer interest in particular and for the proper conduct of telegraphs and telecommunications services, has decided to move towards Unified Licensing Regime. Introduction of the said regime will ensure more competition and provide flexibility to the service providers to make use of latest technologies in the most efficient manner for providing access to the subscriber at cheaper rates. It will also ensure rapid expansion of tele-density allowing operators to provide different services under the same licence by availing benefit of rapid advances that are taking place in the telecom technologies.

Reduction in call timings

1712. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether local call has been reduced to 90 seconds and that of calling mobile number to 60 seconds; if so, what is the basis for such a step, which has affected everyone, especially poor people; and

(b) whether Government would reverse its decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per section 11(2) of TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs has been mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) only and Government has no role in the matter. *Vide* its 28th Amendment to the Telecommunication Tariff Order, notified on 5.11.2003. TRAI has forborne on prescription of any pulse rate for